OVERVIEW
The University of Sydney operates this field school in collaboration with two prestigious Indian universities, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and the Institute for Social and Economic Change. It is an intensive, integrated three-week program of classes and field visits to address the political economy of development and environmental management in India.

We will introduce you to Indian scholars and civil society groups working on issues of geopolitical, economic and environmental importance, and contextualise these issues in the rich tradition of social science that has arisen in India during the past century.

You will gain unique insights into the vast challenges faced by one of the most important nations in the 21st century global economy, and gain research and analytical skills through observation and analysis of India’s development and environmental complexity.

THE PROGRAM
Week one
Held in Mumbai, we will stay at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences campus and participate in tailored classes and city tours developed by local academic staff in collaboration with University of Sydney convenors. You will take classes in the history of India’s development experience and the political, economic, class, caste, religious and cultural underpinnings of resource distribution and patterns of inequality.

Week two
We will travel by train to the remote rural community of Tuljapur and stay at the Tata Institute’s campus where we will see rural India firsthand. Day trips to local villages and discussions with local farmers and government authorities complement classes examining economic and social change in rural India.
Week three
We will first focus on the environment and sustainability as we travel to the Western Ghats, an extensive mountainous area in southwest India recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a World Heritage site because of its unique biosphere.

We will learn from local environmental researchers about the challenges of maintaining the region’s biological diversity while accommodating the pressures of agriculture and tourism.

We then conclude our field school in the booming city of Bangalore where we will have classes on urban growth and transformation and the effects of globalisation; we will also visit the technology parks that makes this city a vital cog in the global economy.

University of Sydney academic staff will be present throughout the field school.

REASONS TO PARTICIPATE
The program offers an international learning experience that will help you develop cultural competency and familiarity with an important developing economy. You will gain insights into the subtleties of cultural complexity in a South Asian context. You can expect a deeper understanding of the economic and environmental issues affecting the broader Asian region, and you will experience the challenges and rewards of field-based learning and interdisciplinary work. You will also develop your negotiation and communication skills.

ASSESSMENT
This is a senior unit of study worth 6 credit points. Assessment includes:

– three presentations (15 percent each)
– major essay (30 percent)
– field diary (25 percent).

TIMELINE
Information session
3pm Thursday 16 October 2014
Madsen Conference Room
Room 449, Madsen Building

Expressions of interest
Due 22 October 2014
(see How to apply, below)

Successful students notified
First week of November

Pre-departure briefing
Thursday 27 November
This will cover details such as health and wellbeing while travelling in India, culturally appropriate behaviour, and academic requirements.

Field school
2–20 February 2015 (indicative)

ACADEMICS AND SUPPORT
– Associate Professor Bill Pritchard,
(Human Geography, School of Geosciences)
– Dr Elizabeth Hill (Political Economy, School of Social and Political Sciences)
– Ms Amanda Sayan (International Development Manager South Asia, Office of Global Engagement)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
To be eligible you need to be enrolled in a bachelor’s degree at the University of Sydney. We will assess applicants according to academic merit and demonstrated interest in issues of development, the environment and Asian studies.

We will create a balanced cohort in terms of gender and study background.

ANTICIPATED COSTS
We will determine a final amount in November, but we expect this to be about $2000, which includes:

– administration costs for partner organisations (guest lectures, wifi)
– all meals and accommodation
– internal transport

Airfare
Student expense (not included above)

Incidentals
We expect this will amount to a maximum of $20 a day per student.

WHAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?
We encourage you to apply for funding through the OS-HELP scheme: sydney.edu.au/current_students/student_exchange/os_help_loan.shtml

HOW TO APPLY
Please send your application by 22 October 2014 to:

Geography students
Associate Professor Bill Pritchard
bill.pritchard@sydney.edu.au

Political economy students
Dr Elizabeth Hill
elizabeth.hill@sydney.edu.au

Your application needs to include:

– A brief 400-word statement on why the field school is important to your studies and for your future career plans. Include details of any skills and experiences that may support your enrolment in the field school.

– A copy of your academic transcript from the University showing your results to date.

As places are limited, entry is competitive; alternatively, if we lack sufficient interest from students, the field trip may not proceed, in which case we will notify you in early November.